



National Aged Care Advisory Council

Meeting Communique – 30 October 2024

Aged Care Bill 2024

Council received an update on the drafting of the Rules and the Consequential and Transitional Provisions Bill, as well as an update on the progress of the Aged Care Bill. Council discussed and provided feedback on the parliamentary process, timeframes for commencement, restrictive practices, thin markets, and grants provisions in the Bill.

Aged Care Taskforce

Council provided feedback on the proposed approach to using the Age Pension to means test for Support at Home. Council also provided feedback on the thresholds for contributions to the Hotelling Supplement and non-clinical care in residential care.

Support at Home

Council welcomed the release of the Program Handbook and the Support at Home Service List. Council raised some concerns about the Service List, particularly the cap on gardening and cleaning.

Council suggested further work is needed to address workforce challenges, which are impacting wait times.

Rules Consultation and Sector Readiness

Council provided feedback on the Rules Consultation process and discussed ways to improve the Department's approach to preparing the sector for the New Aged Care Act. Council highlighted the need for targeted communication, especially for the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse and First Nations communities.

Elder Abuse Update

Council was provided an update on the Attorney-General's Department Elder Abuse Research Program, development of a successor National Plan to the National Plan to Respond to the Abuse of Older Australians 2019-2023 and the recent elder abuse national awareness campaign.

New Regulatory Model

Council provided feedback on the New Regulatory Model being developed by the Department, which will commence when the new Act is introduced.

2024 Achievements

Council reflected on the aged care reform issues addressed throughout 2024. An overview of Council's 2024 Achievements will be published on the Department's website.